LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1   1. (Currently Amended) A method of purchasing products and services over a network
2   comprising the steps of:
3   submitting a Request for Quotation (RFQ) with ~~at least one attribute~~ a plurality of
4   attributes over the network;
5   receiving at least one bid in response to the RFQ over the network, each of the at
6   least one bid having ~~at least one attribute value~~ a plurality of attribute values associated
7   therewith; and
8   creating a graphical visual interface based on a Cartesian coordinate system, the
9   graphical user interface showing a relationship in a graphical format between the ~~at least~~
10 ~~one attribute~~ plurality of attributes and the at least one bid and associated attribute ~~value~~
11 values in a single display, said graphical visual interface permitting user interaction.

1   2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
2   providing a form for entering the RFQ and ~~at least one attribute~~ a plurality of
3   attributes; and
4   providing a form for entering the at least one bid and the plurality of attribute
5   ~~value~~ values.

1   3. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of submitting the RFQ
2   form and the bid form over the network to a web server.

1   4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the RFQ form and the bid form are web

2   pages which allow a buyer and a seller to input one or more data values for one or more

3   data categories.

1   5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the data categories include the

2   ~~at least one attribute~~ plurality of attributes, the ~~at least one~~ plurality of attribute ~~value~~

3   values or a business condition submitted with the at least one RFQ.

1   6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~at least one~~ plurality of

2   attribute ~~value~~ values ~~is one~~ are values of price, quantity, volume discount policy,

3   material quality, product quality ratings, merchant reputation, warranty, support, tax,

4   delivery time, ~~and~~ and/or delivery cost.

1   7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of storing

2   the RFQ and the ~~at least one~~ plurality of RFQ ~~attribute~~ attributes and the at least one bid

3   and plurality of attribute ~~value~~ values in a database.

1   8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of providing

2   business conditions with the RFQ, the business conditions being one or more constraints

3   for values associated with the ~~at least one attribute~~ plurality of attributes.

1   9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the business conditions further

2   include one or more relationships among the ~~at least one~~ plurality of attribute ~~value~~

3   values and the ~~at least one~~ plurality of RFQ ~~attribute~~ attributes.

1   10. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

2   providing at least one bid line representative of connected attribute values

3   displayed on the graphical visual interface and responsive to the business conditions;

4   filtering the business conditions in order to eliminate one of the at least one bid

5   line which does not meet one or more of the business conditions.

1   11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of

2   providing at least two attribute lines and one bid line, wherein:

3   each of the attribute lines represents respectively one of the ~~at least one attribute~~

4   plurality of attribute values, the attribute lines are parallel and equally-spaced; and

5   the one bid line represents connected attribute values positioned on the each of the

6   attribute lines and associated with a bid of the at least one bid.

1   12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of filtering out an

2   attribute line of the attribute lines or the one bid line from the graphical visual interface.

1   13. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of filtering out a

2   portion of the one bid line from the graphical visual interface.

1   14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of filtering

2   out an attribute value of the ~~least one~~ plurality of attribute ~~value~~ values from the graphical

3   visual interface.

1   15. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of filtering out

2   dominated bids associated with the at least one bid from the graphical visual interface.

1   16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the dominated bids have ~~one~~

2   ~~or more~~ a plurality of attributes each having a value not exceeding a value of a

3   corresponding attribute of another bid.

1   17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising an attribute line

2   reordering operation and an attribute value range adjust operation associated with the ~~at~~

3   ~~least one~~ plurality of RFQ ~~attribute~~ attributes and the attribute ~~value~~ values.

1   18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the attribute line reordering

2   operation changes an order of attribute lines associated with the ~~at least one attribute~~

3   plurality of attributes.

1   19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the attribute value range

2   adjust operation changes a range of attribute values associated with the ~~at least one~~

3   plurality of attribute ~~value~~ values.

1   20. (Currently Amended) A system for purchasing products and services over a network

2   comprising:

3   means for submitting a Request for Quotation (RFQ) with ~~at least one attribute~~ a

4   plurality of attributes over the network;

5   means for receiving at least one bid in response to the RFQ over the network, each

6   of the at least one bid having ~~at least one~~ a plurality of attribute ~~value~~ values; and

7   means for creating a graphical visual interface based on a Cartesian coordinate

8   system showing a relationship in a graphical format between the ~~at least one attribute~~

9   plurality of attributes and corresponding attribute ~~value~~ values in a single display, said

10   graphical visual interface permitting user interaction.

1   21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20, further comprising means for filtering

2   from the graphical visual interface one of the ~~at least one~~ plurality of attribute ~~value~~

3   values and the RFQ value.

1   22. (Original) The system of claim 20, further comprising:

2   means for providing at least one bid line representative of connected attribute

3   values displayed on the graphical visual interface;

4   means for filtering at least one of the bid line or a portion thereof.

1   23. (Original) The system of claim 22, further comprising means for providing attribute

2   lines representative of the at least one RFQ attribute.

1   24. (Original) The system of claim 23, further comprising:

2   means for placing attribute values associated with the submitted bid on respective

3   attribute lines; and

4   means for providing a bid line spanning between the attribute lines, the bid line

5   connecting the attribute values located on the respective attribute lines.

1   25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 24, further comprising:

2   means for reordering the attribute lines; and

3   means for adjusting an attribute value range associated with the ~~at least one~~

4   ~~attribute~~ plurality of attributes.

1   26. (Currently Amended) A machine readable medium containing code for purchasing

2   products and services over a network, the code implementing the steps of:

3   submitting a Request for Quotation (RFQ) with ~~at least one attribute~~ a plurality of

4   attributes over the network;

5   receiving at least one bid in response to the RFQ over the network, each of the at

6   least one bid having ~~at least one~~ a plurality of attribute ~~value~~ values; and

7   creating a graphical visual interface based on a Cartesian coordinate system, the

8   graphical user interface showing a relationship in a graphical format between the ~~at least~~

9   ~~one attribute~~ plurality of attributes and the at least one bid and associated attribute ~~value~~

10 values in a single display, said graphical visual interface permitting user interaction.

1   27. (Currently Amended) The machine readable code of claim 26, further comprising the

2   step of filtering from the graphical visual interface one of the at least plurality of attribute

3   value values and the RFQ attribute attributes.

1   28. (Currently Amended) The machine readable code of claim 26, further comprising the

2   step of providing at least one bid line representative of connected attribute values of the at

3   least one plurality of attribute value values.

1   29. (Currently Amended) The machine readable code of claim 26, further comprising the

2   step of providing attribute lines representative of the at least one plurality of RFQ

3   attribute attributes.

1   30. (Original) The machine readable code of claim 29, further comprising the steps of:

2   placing attribute values associated with the submitted bid on respective attribute

3   lines; and

4   providing a bid line spanning between the attribute lines, the bid line connecting

5   the attribute values located on the respective attribute lines.

1   31. (Currently Amended) The machine readable code of claim 30, further comprising the

2   steps of :

3   reordering the attribute lines; and

4   adjusting an attribute value range associated with the at least one plurality of

5   attribute value values.

1   32. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said graphical visual interface permitting

2   user interaction allows the filtering out of an attribute line of the attribute lines or the one

3   bid line from the graphical visual interface.

1   33. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said graphical visual interface permitting
2   user interaction allows the filtering out of a portion of the one bid line from the graphical
3   visual interface.

1   34. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein said graphical visual interface allows the
2   filtering out of an attribute line of the attribute lines or the one bid line from the graphical
3   visual interface.

1   35. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein said graphical visual interface allows the
2   filtering out of a portion of the one bid line from the graphical visual interface.

1   36. (New) The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of filtering out an
2   attribute value of the plurality of attribute values from the graphical visual interface.

1   37. (New) The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of filtering out
2   dominated bids associated with the at least one bid from the graphical visual interface.

1   38. (New) The machine readable code of claim 26, wherein said graphical visual
2   interface allows the filtering out of an attribute line of the attribute lines or the one bid
3   line from the graphical visual interface.

1   39. (New) The machine readable code of claim 26, wherein said graphical visual
2   interface allows the filtering out of a portion of the one bid line from the graphical visual
3   interface.

1   40. (New) The machine readable code of claim 26, further comprising the step of

2   filtering out an attribute value of the plurality of attribute values from the graphical visual

3   interface.

1   41. (New) The machine readable code of claim 26, further comprising the step of

2   filtering out dominated bids associated with the at least one bid from the graphical visual

3   interface.

1   42. (New) A system for providing an interactive visualization and interface for

2   displaying one or more Requests for Quotes and one or more submitted bids with one or

3   more attributes and evaluating the said submitted bids for their merit, the said system

4   comprising of:

5   database which provides one or more data models and a persistent store for one or

6   more Requests for Quotes and one or more submitted bids with one or more attributes

7   which are displayed in the said interactive visualization and interface;

8   RFQ input process which stores one or more RFQ data instances in the said

9   database;

10   bid input process which stores one or more submitted bid data instances with one

11   or more attribute values in the said database;

12   data preparation process which pre-processes and pre-computes the said RFQ and

13   bid data for preparing for display and analysis in the said visual interface, data preparation

14   including, but not limited to, cleansing, normalization, and aggregation;

15   data management process which provides a programming interface to the said

16   database for accessing and manipulating the said RFQ and bid data stored in the database;

17   data rendering process which provides one or more RFQ rendering processes

18   reading in one or more RFQ data, creating one or more visualization based on a Cartesian

19   coordinate system, transforming the read RFQ data into points and lines in the said

20   visualization, and displaying them on the said visualization;

21   data rendering process which, further, provides one or more Bid rendering

22   processes reading on one or more bid data with one or more attribute values, transforming

23   the read bid data and their attribute values into points and lines in the said visualization,

24   and displaying them on the said visualization;

25   data control process which provides one or more data filter controls allowing the

26   user to interactively filter the said RFQ data and the said bid data displayed in the said

27   visualization;

28   data control process which, further, provides one or more data order controls

29   allowing the user to interactively rearrange the order of one or more attributes displayed

30   in the visualization;

31   data control process which, further, provides one or more data relation controls

32   allowing the user to interactively discover the domination relationship among two or

33   more submitted bids over one or more attribute values, and interactively display the said

34   relationships in the said visualization by using the said data filter control; and

35   graphical visual interface which displays the said interactive visualization with

36   one or more icons for activating and deactivating the said interactive data controls

37   including, but not limited to, data filter controls, data order controls, and data relation

38   controls, said graphical visual interface permitting user interaction.

1   43. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein said graphical visual interface allows the

2   filtering out of an attribute line of the attribute lines or the one bid line from the graphical

3   visual interface.

1   44. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein said graphical visual interface allows the

2   filtering out of a portion of the one bid line from the graphical visual interface.

1   45. (New) The system of claim 42, further comprising the step of filtering out an

2   attribute value of the plurality of attribute values from the graphical visual interface.

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1   46. (New) The system of claim 42, further comprising the step of filtering out dominated

2   bids associated with the at least one bid from the graphical visual interface.